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Review by
Brig. Gen. Lansdale

25 January 1962

POPULAR SUPPORT
OAS MEETING, JANUARY 1962

One task of the special Project was to generate popular support in the Hemisphere for the U.S. position (sanctions against the Communist regime in Cuba) at the OAS Meeting of Foreign Ministers, Punta del Este, which started 22 January 1962. Since the Communists also were generating popular support for the Cuban-Communist position, I kept a score-sheet of results. The following is the tabulation, to date, from all reports available to me.

PRO-COMMUNIST

PRO-FREEDOM

Venezuela

22 Jan. Scattered demonstrations in Caracas. US Embassy and Foreign Ministry bombed. 3 persons killed in various incidents.

None reported.

23 Jan. Anniversary of Jimenez overthrow linked up with OAS meeting. Students and rioters burned 6 to 8 busses. Transport strike. Government office bombed. Pan American and Burroughs offices, Caracas, hit by "Molotov cocktails."

23 Jan. Armed mobs damaged city of Barquisimeto. Oil line belonging to US subsidiary bombed between Puerto La Cruz and Anaco.

Colombia

22 Jan. CP planning propaganda agitation, but no actions reported. CP planned guerrilla action in Dept. of Valle, 49 persons killed.

None reported.

CP has alerted party units and front for strikes, demonstrations and sabotage for 26 Jan.

Ecuador

Minor skirmishes of leftish youth with anti-Castro demonstrations.

18 Jan. Mass (10-20,000) demonstration, Quito, held despite government prohibi

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PRO-FREEDOM

Quito demonstration followed successful demonstrations in Tulcan, Cuenca, Riobamba. Mass demonstration (10-35,000) in Guayaquil popular success, despite government prohibition.

Chile

18 Jan. Demonstration of 3,000 persons. Described as not up to usual Communist standard.

None reported.

Bolivia

Communists, fronts, and Labor met 22 Jan. to plan a "solidarity march."

22 Jan. Mass rally (20,000) organized by Catholic Church. Marched to Presidential Palace. Demanded break with Cuba. Leaflets distributed outside Church at each Mass urging "March of Silence."

Brazil

Mass meeting, Recife

None reported.

Argentina

Demonstrations planned.

21 Jan. Special Masses dedicated to liberation of Cuban people held in all Catholic churches, Buenos Aires.

Number of small demonstrations and anti-Castro resolutions in civic groups, student and labor organizations. Few details.

Military reported in touch with neighboring military to encourage anti-Castro position at OAS.

Uruguay

5-day protest youth march from Montevideo to Punta del Este. Organized by Communist youth, supported by leftist youth and labor groups. 2,000 attended rally at start, 17 Jan. 450 marchers.

Media campaign (radio, TV, cinema, press) 15-28 January supporting OAS objectives. Anti-Communist students brought in from interior for propaganda effort.

Propaganda package delivered to all

(25 Jan. reports state numerous

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Ecuador

Minor skirmishes of leftish youth with anti-Castro demonstrations.

18 Jan. Mass (10-20,000) demonstration, Quito, held despite government prohibition. Called for break with Cuba. Good radio coverage.

Previously Declassified/Released on 12-28-88
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by N. Menden, National Security Council

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(25 Jan. reports state numerous marchers were afflicted with diarrhea and several were hospitalized.)

Media campaign (radio, TV, cinema, press) 15-28 January supporting OAS objectives. Anti-Communist students brought in from interior for propaganda effort.

Propaganda package delivered to all OAS delegates.

19 Jan. Demonstration (1,000) in Montevideo Ateneo. Good press coverage. Urged strong sanctions against Cuba.

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PRO-COMMUNIST

23 Jan. Montivideo demonstration (12,000). Anti-U.S., pro-Cuban.

PRO-FREEDOM

22 Jan. Open-air rally (2,000) held in rain. Speakers included former OAS President Eduardo Garcia of Argentina and Cuban exile leaders.

Peru

None reported.

Demonstrations being organized.

Panama

Demonstrations and acts of violence against US Embassy and Canal being planned.

None reported.

Guatemala

Sketchy reports. Plans for week-long program of "solidarity with Cuba," with 28 Jan. rally at Jose Marti memorial.

18 Jan. Airport rally sending off delegation to OAS. Banners at airport and in city called for anti-Castro stand. Good press and radio coverage.

Honduras

Demonstrations planned.

None reported.

Costa Rica

Demonstration planned to welcome 58 Costa Ricans who spent 3 weeks in Cuba.

10 Jan. 5-minute work stoppage virtually all workers, San Jose. All Catholic Church bells in city tolled at end of stoppage.

Mexico

15 Jan. Attempted demonstration (20-40) in front of US Embassy. Dispersed by police.

20 Jan. Pilgrimage (10,000) to Basilica of Guadalupe to pray for divine guidance of Foreign Ministers at OAS. Front page coverage all major Mexican papers.

17 Jan. Propaganda campaign (wall painting, posters). 20 persons arrested.

21 Jan. Pro-Cuban rally (800) in Teatro Follies Bergere. Communist-Marxist leaders present. Attacked US, defended Cuba, demanded Leftist support to pressure Mexican government to support Cuba.

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PRO-COMMUNIST

PRO-FREEDOM

Haiti

Anti-US propaganda. Reported bribery of Haitian delegates to OAS. None reported.

Canada

22 Jan. Small student demonstrations at US Consulate, Montreal. None reported.

No reports on activities connected with OAS meeting have been received from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua or Paraguay.

USIA reported giving continuous priority coverage, with all its resources, on OAS meeting. Played up President's statement 24 January of concern felt by the people of Latin America and the U.S. at the intrusion of Communism into the OAS family. Also, VOA broadcasts feature an early Castro speech proclaiming himself a pure Cuban nationalist, immediately followed by his recent speech boasting of always having been a Marxist.

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21 Jan. Pro-Cuba, anti-US meetings in Torreon, Guadalajara, and Tepic.

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